

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WOLVERHAMPTON



ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
for 1973

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and

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To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
County Borough of Wolverhampton.

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the health of Wolverhampton for 1973. Because of the reorganisation of the National Health Service on the 1st of April next, it is necessary for me to present this report much earlier than usual. As a consequence, many of the usual statistics are not yet available and this Annual Report is much shorter than its recent predecessors. Furthermore, as it will be the last of a series of Annual Reports that began in 1871, I have added a brief historical note as an appendix.

### Vital Statistics

The official corrected statistics do not usually arrive from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys until April, so this report contains only local uncorrected information.

There were 4,215 live births recorded, a reduction of 208 on the previous year, and the lowest number recorded since the Borough enlarged in 1966. The birth rate of 15.6 per 1,000 is now near the 14.7 per 1,000 of 1955, which was the lowest recorded since the war years.

There was a fall in the still birth rate from 20.1 to 17.9 per 1,000 but this was offset by a rise in the infant mortality rate from 24.4 to 25.9 per 1,000 so that the net reduction in deaths was only 0.7 per 1,000. Both the computer study which monitors all births in Wolverhampton and the system of joint clinical review are continuing but no new factors have emerged since my last report.

### Environmental services to improve living and working conditions:-

Work on slum clearance continued; a clearance area in Bilston involving 25 houses was represented for action and reports were submitted in respect of 27 individual unfit houses. In July the Wednesfield Heath Smoke Control Area became operative; during the year two more areas at Goldthorn Hill and Amos Lane were confirmed and are due to become operative later this year.

The implementation of the recommendations following the O. & M. review of the inspectorate in 1970 was proceeded with and the introduction of the new system with area teams of health inspectors and a measured work load was completed. However, new legislation and an increased public awareness of pollution in its widest sense, necessitated a review of the staff situation, which was undertaken towards the end of the year, and resulted in a revised establishment. The establishment proposed for the new District Council comprises 29 inspectors compared with a total of 20 employed during the present year. It is interesting to note that the total number of health inspectors employed by the several Authorities that contributed to the extended County Borough of Wolverhampton in 1966 was also 29, although only 24 actually took up post on the appointed day. This is a measure of the dedication and loyalty that the Borough has received from its health inspectors since the last reorganisation.

Mr. F. Binns Hartley, Chief Public Health Inspector since 1946, retired at the end of February. In last year's Annual Report he gave a comprehensive review of the changes that had occurred in the environment of Wolverhampton during the last 25 years. He will be remembered especially for the vigorous and





effective way in which he tackled post-war slum clearance and the re-development of the retail and wholesale markets. His shrewd and forthright advice will be missed by both his colleagues and the committees he served so loyally.

#### Health Education to encourage personal responsibility for health:-

The school health education programme continues to be expanded and with help from health visitors, medical officers and the technical assistant, programmes have been carried out in 18 different schools. New features this year were three day conferences for sixth form students on "Responsible Citizenship" and these provoked lively and relevant discussion. During the year the leaflet "Please keep returnable bottles clean" in English, Punjabi and Urdu was produced and 100,000 were distributed to households through milkmen. The leaflet was a combined project between the Health Department, two local dairies and the Council for Community Relations, with the artwork done by the Faculty of Art at the Polytechnic. This was a timely leaflet, not only concerned with hygiene, but also emphasising the need to return bottles.

#### Domiciliary Services

In January it was possible to introduce the new management structure for the Nursing Services based on the Mayston Committee Report. There are now three area teams of nurses based at Warstones, Parkfields and Primrose Lane Clinics. An area nursing officer manages each area with the assistance of three nursing officers, each responsible for a functional section (i.e., Health Visiting, School Health, Midwifery and Home Nursing). Fortunately the recruitment of nurses has improved during the year and the total whole-time equivalent of staff is now 9 more than last year. This has enabled attachment and liaison arrangements with general practitioners to be extended to the advantage of both patients and doctors.

Unfortunately the Tettenhall Health Centre could not be completed on time, but it should be operational early this summer. Good progress has been made with the clinic at Ashmore Park and the Bilston Health Centre is at the sketch plan stage, awaiting the approval of the Department of Health and Social Security.

In October an additional Health Visitor Training Course began at the Bilston College of Further Education. This should help recruitment in Wolverhampton and neighbouring authorities, as well as stimulating professional interest among senior members of staff. This means that Wolverhampton is now in the fortunate position of having training schemes in the Borough for all the three branches of domiciliary nursing.

The year has been a notable one for the advancement of Family Planning. National legislation made it possible from January 1st for local authorities to finance the male vasectomy operation for suitable applicants whereas previously this could only be done privately or through voluntary organisations. In April your Health Committee terminated the agency arrangements with the Family Planning Association which had operated since 1966 and introduced a comprehensive service with free advice to all applicants, and free drugs and items prescribed for families with the greatest need to avoid unwanted pregnancy because of medical and social problems. The demand for the new service was great and its success is entirely due to the hard work and enthusiasm of all members of staff, both professional and lay, particularly those who had to transfer their loyalties at a time of so much uncertainty.

The retirement of Mrs. Dorothy Rinkel, M.B.E., in July after a life-time of public service in nursing and midwifery was acknowledged with mixed feelings - the joy at her young and active appearance being modified only by the regret that her wise counsel and cheerful personality would no longer be with us. She came to Wolverhampton in 1957 as Supervisor of Midwives, and since then she has pioneered the reduction of working hours for midwives, the introduction of radio communication and finally the staffing of the new G.P. Maternity Unit by district midwives, all of which as well as improving the service for mothers, have increased professional satisfaction for midwives.







The Health Department offices in Waterloo Road were completed shortly after the introduction of the National Health Service in August 1948. They have served us very well, but for some years it has been apparent that they were inadequate for our present needs. At last it seems likely that new accommodation will be available and by coincidence, in time for the reorganisation of the National Health Service in April 1974. The new offices on the First Floor of Bankfield House are 100 yards nearer the town centre in Waterloo Road and should be modern, comfortable, on the floor above the Social Services Department, yet still near the Public Health Inspectors.

### Reorganisation of the National Health Service

During the year the Area Joint Liaison Committee and its working parties have continued to collect information about the services that will shortly be integrated; to discuss the steady stream of "H.R.C." circulars that have arrived from the Department of Health and Social Security and to consider ways and means which will ensure the smooth running of the National Health Service in the Wolverhampton area throughout the administrative changes that are due to take place in April 1974.

One of the major objectives of the National Health Service Reorganisation is to provide a planning system that will enable essential resources to be allocated fairly to all specialities, including Community Medicine, to enable them to meet the needs of the public effectively. The Department of Health and Social Security therefore undertook planning trials in four areas of the country, and Wolverhampton, as a one-district area with few boundary changes, was one of those selected. Although a substantial amount of additional work was undertaken, all those involved have benefitted both from the increased personal contact with their colleagues in many disciplines as well as from the insight into the administrative processes which are likely to be involved.

By October the Shadow Area Health Authority and its chairman had been appointed and their first major task was to organise the appointment of their Chief Officers. At the end of the year most of the Area Team of Officers had been appointed and the Area Joint Liaison Committee is being wound-up although its working parties will continue.

### The Future

This is not only the last of a series of Annual Reports that began in 1871, but the office of Medical Officer of Health is also to disappear. Because of this my attention turned recently to the history of the public health services in this town. The steady improvement in the services that has been recorded in these Reports decade by decade is most impressive and it is clear that in this sense change is with us always. It is also interesting to note that there have been four key periods when there were changes in organisation - in 1871 when the sanitary conditions were so bad that the threat of Government action was invoked to get the Council to appoint the first part-time Medical Officer of Health; in 1921 when, with the advent of the new Ministry of Health and an attempt to create a land fit for heroes, the first full-time Medical Officer of Health was appointed; in 1948 when the first comprehensive, freely-available National Health Service was introduced, and now in 1974 the integration of the three existing National Health Service Authorities.

The changes in 1921 stemmed logically from the successes of preventive medicine in the 19th Century, but those of 1948 and 1974 are rather different. Since 1948 the Medical Officer of Health, while still remaining a specialist in preventive medicine, has become increasingly involved in a general co-ordinating and liaison role. This has happened because the provision of health services has developed into a complex process where every practitioner depends upon others for assistance if he is to work effectively. Furthermore, if the organisation of one unit in a service is altered in isolation, although for a good reason, the interdependence is such that every other unit in the





service will eventually feel the effects of this change, and often these can be bad effects.

The Medical Officer of Health and his senior medical assistants are therefore being replaced by a small team of Community Physicians led by the Area Medical Officer. Between them they will still be responsible for the maintenance of public health, for example, in Wolverhampton the three specialists in Community Medicine will be individually and collectively responsible for the control of infectious disease and environmental health, the organisation of all child health services and liaison with Social Services. But in addition, they will be increasingly concerned with the collection of information about all local problems of health and disability; the measurement of the success or failure of the services provided to solve these problems and so leading, if necessary, to the formulation of new policy to make the services more effective. The Area Medical Officer, as well as being leader of the team of Community Physicians, will also share with his colleagues in the Area Management Team the dual responsibility to formulate policies for the Area Authority to consider, and afterwards to execute the policies which have been approved.


When the Medical Officer of Health entered the health scene in the middle of the 19th Century there was so little effective treatment available that, as the Annual Reports show, prevention was the only sure way to health. During the first half of the 20th Century curative services developed rapidly and prevention plus cure has effectively increased the span of human life so that serious illness does not now affect the majority of us until we are at an age when cure is overshadowed by the need for care in its widest sense. Moreover, as terminal care can be a slow and lengthy process most people prefer to be at home if at all possible, and the relationship between the various medical-social caring services and the hospital-based curative services becomes complex and interdependent. Thus although the first objective is to ensure that effective preventive and curative services continue to be readily available, it is clear that the major task for the National Health Service during the remainder of the century will be to develop more effective and acceptable caring services for the elderly, the mentally disordered and the physically handicapped. This is one good reason for a reorganisation of the National Health Service and the demise of the Medical Officer of Health.

In conclusion, I must express my personal appreciation of the hard work and loyalty of the staff of the Health Department, particularly at a time when there has been so much uncertainty.

All members of the Health Department are grateful to the Council and particularly the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their interest and support at all times. It is difficult to improve upon the hope expressed in the first Annual Report, 1872, that under God's blessing and with the continuing valuable support of the Committee we be successful in rendering this Borough one of the healthiest in England.

NEVILLE GARRATT

Medical Officer of Health.



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Preliminary Vital Statistics for 1973

Population- Registrar-General's mid-year (1972) estimate ..... 269,460

	Male	Female	Total	
Live births	2,190	2,025	4,215	15.6 per 1,000 population
Still births	37	40	77	0.29 per 1,000 population 17.9 per 1,000 total births.
Deaths				
Infant Mortality	72	37	109	25.9 per 1,000 live births
Parinatal Mortality (Still births and deaths under 1 week)	73	59	132	30.8 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Maternal Mortality	-	1	1	0.23 per 1,000 (live and still) births
Deaths from Tuberculosis				
Pulmonary	9	1	10	0.04 per 1,000 population
Non-Pulmonary	1	1	2	0.00 per 1,000 population
Total	8	2	12	0.04 per 1,000 population

Total births to Wolverhampton residents were 4,292, of which 4,151 occurred in the borough; 176 (4 per cent) were in the patients' homes and 3,975 (96 per cent) were in hospital. The place of origin of the mother and the place of confinement is given below:-

Origin of Mother	Domiciliary Births	Institutional Births	Total
Commonwealth and Colonies	20	1,014	1,034 (25%)
All Other Residents	156	2,961	3,117 (75%)
Totals	176 (4%)	3,975 (96%)	4,151 (100%)

Cremations

A total of 2,489 cremations took place, a decrease of 93 on last year. This total included 1,686 persons resident in Wolverhampton, who accordingly constituted 67.7 per cent of those cremated. Post mortem examinations were performed on 595 cases of which 369 were at the request of coroners. On no occasion was cremation refused.

Sickness Claims

New claims for sickness benefit (excluding industrial disease or industrial injury claims) submitted to the Wolverhampton office of the Ministry of National Insurance during 1973 numbered 42,919 (in 1972 the number was 38,589) with a weekly average of 810; the most claims in a week were 1,647 and 1,205 which occurred in the weeks ended 9th and 16th January respectively; the fewest claims occurred in the two weeks ended 1st January 1974 giving an average of 485 per week. The weekly average of 810 was above that of 1972 which was 742.





INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Tuberculosis Notifications

Year	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
Pulmonary					
Male	52	47	55	45	55
Female	49	34	49	33	30
Non-Pulmonary					
Male	11	6	19	14	15
Female	12	10	20	16	11
Total	124	97	143	108	111

The cases remaining on the register at the end of 1973 were classified as follows:-

<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
Male	782	Male	138
Female	474	Female	129
	<u>1,256</u>		<u>267</u>

Deaths

The deaths from tuberculosis in 1973 and in the preceding four years are given below:-

Year	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
Pulmonary					
Male	10	1	5	4	9
Female	1	2	1	-	1
Non-Pulmonary					
Male	2	3	2	3	1
Female	1	2	-	1	1
Total	14	8	8	8	12

The corrected notifications of certain infectious diseases in Wolverhampton 1973 are as follows:-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Number of Notifications</u>
Measles	1,583
Scarlet Fever	29
Whooping Cough	2
Food Poisoning	9
Infective Jaundice	33
Dysentery	9
Malaria	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2





## Measles Notifications

The following table shows the notifications of measles since 1968.

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
1st Quarter	97	215	350	424	9	930
2nd Quarter	974*	253	209	412	57	339
3rd Quarter	724	160	467	160	85	236
4th Quarter	63	678	475	9	361	78
Total	1,858	1,306	1,501	1,005	512	1,583

\* Vaccination against measles introduced in May 1968.

## NURSING SERVICES

The combined establishment of 162 $\frac{1}{2}$  comprises a Director of Nursing Services, 3 area nursing officers, 9 nursing officers and 149 $\frac{1}{2}$  health visitors, midwives and district nurses. The average strength throughout the year was 149.9. At the end of the year there were in post a whole-time equivalent of 161.4, of whom 115.4 were health visitor, midwife or district nurse trained. This represents an increase of 9 whole-time equivalent trained staff over the position at this time in 1972.

### (a) Health Visiting

The establishment comprises an area nursing officer, 3 nursing officers and a whole-time equivalent of 53.5 staff. The average strength throughout the year was 53.7. At the end of the year there were in post an area nursing officer, 3 nursing officers, 2 group advisers, 5 field work instructors, 27 health visitors (15 part-time) 3 tuberculosis visitors (one part-time) 25 school/clinic nurses (11 part-time) 5 school/clinic nursing assistants and 5 student health visitors (i.e., a whole-time equivalent of 58.7, of whom 32.3 were health visitor trained). This represents an improvement of 1.6 whole-time equivalent trained health visitors over the position at the same time in 1972.

Details of visits made during 1973 are given below:-

Children under 1, first visits	.....	5,227
Children 1-2, first visits	.....	4,677
Children 2-5, first visits	.....	8,379
Children 0-5, revisits	.....	17,770
Aged 5-16 years, first visits	.....	233
Aged 17-64 years, first visits	.....	887
Aged 65 years and over, first visits	.....	780
Aged 5-65 years and over, revisits	.....	1,357
Tuberculous households	.....	165
Diabetic households	.....	173
Other households	.....	1,454

In addition, health visitors and clinic nurses attended 4,319 half-day sessions at the clinics





## b) Home Nursing

The establishment comprises an area nursing officer, 3 nursing officers and whole-time equivalent of 45 staff. The average strength throughout the year was 49.5. At the end of the year there were in post an area nursing officer, 3 nursing officers, 43 state registered nurses, 18 part-time, 8 enrolled nurses and 11 part-time nursing auxiliaries, (i.e., a whole-time equivalent of 54.6, of whom 39.7 were district nurse trained). This represents an improvement of 13 whole-time equivalent district nurse trained staff over the position at this time in 1972.

A summary of the work of the nurses is given below:-

<u>Cases</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Visits</u>
Medical	2,877	98,521
Surgical	793	23,966
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	39	1,430
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	29	1,543
Internal Complications	-	-
Others	-	-
Total	<u>3,736</u>	<u>125,460</u>

Patients over 65 years	2,430	Visits	87,917
Patients under 5 years	59	Visits	508
Patients who had over 24 visits	1,150	Visits	121,148

## c) Municipal Midwives

The establishment comprises an area nursing officer, 3 nursing officers and whole-time equivalent of 51 midwives. The average strength throughout the year was 45.7. At the end of the year there were in post an area nursing officer, 3 nursing officers, 42 midwives (9 part-time), 3 clinic nurses (2 part-time) and 4 part-time nursery nurses, (i.e., a whole-time equivalent of 47.1, of whom 2.4 were midwifery trained). This represents an improvement of 2.1 whole-time equivalent midwifery trained staff, compared with the position at this time in 1972.

## FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES PROVIDED DIRECTLY BY THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY FROM 1st APRIL 1973

New Patients seen	.....	1,415
Total number of attendances (including new patients)	.....	5,106
Number of premises regularly used for sessions	.....	8

## National Health Service (Family Planning) Amendment Act 1972:

Under this Act 44 men aged 30-39 received vasectomy at the Family Planning Association Vasectomy Clinic, West Bromwich, from 1st January



# REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

## Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

### 1. Water Supply.

Routine samples of water were taken throughout the year. Forty-seven samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination and a similar number to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis. Two bacteriological samples were reported to be unsatisfactory; repeat samples proved to be satisfactory.

### 2. (a) Public Swimming Pools.

Thirty-nine bacteriological samples and a similar number of chemical samples were taken from these pools. Two bacteriological samples were reported to be unsatisfactory; repeat samples proved to be satisfactory.

### (b) School Swimming Pools.

Twenty-seven bacteriological and 27 chemical samples were taken from these pools. One bacteriological sample was reported to be unsatisfactory; a repeat sample proved to be satisfactory.

### (c) Paddling Pools.

Thirteen bacteriological and 10 chemical samples were taken from these pools. Ten of the bacteriological samples were reported upon adversely.

The majority of the unsatisfactory samples were taken from the only pool not having a filtration and chlorination plant and the remainder were from pools where the filtration plant was malfunctioning. In all cases strict control was exercised over the enforced manual chlorination of the pools. A new filtration and chlorination plant is being provided at the one pool not yet equipped with such a facility.

### . Sanitation

The following table gives details of the action taken concerning complaints and enquiries to the department:-

Houses inspected .....	2,544
Other premises inspected .....	780
Informal notices served .....	353
Statutory notices served .....	122
Informal notices complied .....	290
Statutory notices complied.....	75
Houses in which defects were remedied after service of:-	
(i) Informal notices only.....	207
(ii) Statutory notices .....	83

Legal proceedings against the owner of a dwellinghouse had commenced in 1972. Successive prosecutions were taken for non-compliance with notices served under the provisions of the Public Health Act 1936 and fines totalling £45 were imposed. The work required had still not been completed at the end of the year under review.





4. Infectious Diseases

One hundred and twenty-nine visits were made in connection with cases of infectious disease notified to the Medical Officer of Health. Housing conditions, contacts and their employment, milk supplies, and in appropriate cases the means of isolation formed the subject of the enquiries.

5. Disinfection and Disinfestation

Details of the action taken are as follows:-

Disinfection -	
Rooms fumigated .....	17
Rooms sprayed .....	3
Disinfestation -	
Rooms fumigated .....	364
Rooms sprayed .....	520

6. Hairdressers' and Barbers' Premises.

Twenty persons and their premises were registered in accordance with Section 172 of the Wolverhampton Corporation Act 1969.

Thirty routine inspections were made and one informal notice was served.

7. Pharmacy and Poisons Act 1933

Six applications were received for entry in the local authority's list of persons entitled to sell poisons under Part II of the Act and the Regulations made thereunder; the applicants and their premises were approved and the necessary certificates issued.

A total of 65 persons and firms operating from 87 premises are now on the register.

8. Clean Air Acts 1956 and 1968.

Smoke Control Area

Smoke Control Orders in operation	27
Smoke Control Orders confirmed during 1973	2

Legal proceedings were instituted against a coal merchant for the sale of unauthorised fuel in a smoke control area. Defendant fined £5.00.

Smoke Observations

Observations taken on industrial premises .....	30
Excessive smoke emissions from industrial premises .....	11
Excessive smoke emissions referred to Alkali Inspector ...	2
Observations taken on domestic premises in smoke control areas	46
Excessive smoke emissions from domestic premises in smoke control areas.....	46
Warning letters to occupiers of domestic premises in smoke control areas regarding excessive smoke emissions .....	11

Grit and Dust

Excessive emissions .....	2
Excessive emissions referred to Alkali Inspector .....	1





## Heights of Chimneys

Number approved ..... 13  
Number not approved ..... 2

## Grit Arresters

Number approved ..... 2

## Furnaces

Number approved ..... 1

## 9. Public Health Act 1936 - Section 92

### Grit, Dust and Odours from non-combustion processes

Complaints received ..... 22  
Complaints confirmed ..... 9  
Nuisances remedied ..... 8  
Excessive dust referred to Alkali Inspector ... 1

## 10. Measurement of Atmospheric Pollution

Measurements of smoke and sulphur dioxide were continued at three sites by means of volumetric apparatus.

## 11. Deposit of Poisonous Waste Act 1972.

### Quantity of waste notified:-

(a) Liquid ..... approximately 2,285,113 gallons  
(b) Solid - by weight ..... approximately 760 tons  
(c) Solid - by volume ..... approximately 4,978 cubic yards

Number of samples taken for analysis ..... 4

## 12. Noise Abatement Act 1960

Complaints received ..... 39  
Complaints confirmed ..... 17  
Nuisances remedied ..... 12

## 13. Factories Act 1961.

See Appendix to the Report.

## 14. Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

The following tables give details of the inspections and re-visits made, the notices served, etc., and the contraventions found and remedied during the year:-

### Inspections

	<u>Initial</u> <u>Inspections</u>
Offices .....	213
Retail shops .....	193
Wholesale departments, warehouses .....	23
Catering establishments open to the public .....	-
Fuel storage depots .....	-
TOTAL	<u>429</u>



Summary of Visits

Initial	Re-inspections	Other visits	Total number of visits
429	2,257	850	3,536

Notices served: 417  
Notices complied:298

Analysis of contraventions found and remedied

Section		Contraventions	
		Found	Remedied
4	Cleanliness .....	89	75
5	Overcrowding .....	66	10
6	Temperature .....	200	138
7	Ventilation .....	113	90
8	Lighting .....	46	30
9	Sanitary conveniences .....	378	335
10	Washing facilities .....	205	155
11	Drinking water .....	296	166
12	Clothing accommodation .....	121	60
13/14	Seating accommodation .....	75	49
15	Eating facilities .....	47	23
16	Floors, passages, etc.....	76	58
17	Machinery .....	19	5
24/26	First aid .....	253	175
50	Abstracts .....	235	166
Totals		2,219	1,535

15. Rodent Control

The following report is submitted:-

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949  
Year ended 31 December 1973

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS		
1. Number of properties in district.....	112,063	9
2. a. Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification ...	5,829	14
b. Number infested by ( i) Rats.....	2,254	6
(ii) Mice.....	2,949	4
3. Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification .....	-	-
SEWERS		
4. Were any sewers infested by Rats? YES		





# HOUSING

## 1. Slum Clearance

One clearance scheme involving 25 houses and 27 individual unfit houses were represented for action.

The clearance scheme was as follows:-

Name	Date of Representation	No. of areas	No. of houses	No. of persons
Beckett Street, Bilston	6.4.1973	3	25	69

Two orders were made in respect of schemes represented in 1972. Details are as follows:-

Name	Date of Order	No. of houses	No. of persons
Wolverhampton Corporation (Hartshorn Street, Bilston) Compulsory Purchase Order 1973	7.5.73	140	398
Wolverhampton Corporation (Mander Street) Compulsory Purchase Order 1973. (No Orders have yet been made in respect of the other two clearance schemes represented in 1972)	17.9.73	93	290

The following order was confirmed:-

Name	No. of houses	Date of Inquiry	Result of Inquiry
Wolverhampton Corporation (Red Cross Street) Compulsory Purchase Order 1972	20	None held - inquiry cancelled following withdrawal of objections	Order confirmed without modification 22.6.73

A total of 63 families comprising 162 persons were rehoused from the several clearance schemes and 105 "pink" and 25 "grey" properties have been demolished.

The clearance of the following schemes was completed:-

Name	Date of Confirmation	No. of houses	No. of Persons Displaced
Wolverhampton Corporation (Shepherd Street) Compulsory Purchase Order 1962	11.10.62	144	402
Wolverhampton Corporation (West Street) Compulsory Purchase Order 1970.	20.5.71	25	45
Wolverhampton Corporation (Cambridge Street, Bilston) Compulsory Purchase Order 1969	11.3.70	98	379
Wolverhampton Corporation (Earl Street, Bilston) Compulsory Purchase Order 1969	10.4.70	16	23





The first scheme was confirmed and the clearance of the unfit houses carried out some years ago but the scheme has only finally been completed by the demolition of the "grey" properties.

Programme for 1974.

The following major schemes are programmed for representation under Part III:-

Scheme	Estimated No. of houses
Ashland Street/Great Brickkiln Street	110
Springfields	270
Park Village	200
Dunstall Road	100

#### Individual Unfit Houses.

Reports affecting 27 houses were made; 17 families involving 36 persons were rehoused, 48 houses were demolished and 13 houses were closed.

#### . Improvement Grants

The administrative work in connection with the making of grants is the responsibility of the Borough Engineer but in all cases this Department is consulted regarding the life of the property and its suitability for improvement.

A total of 1,190 enquiries was received and investigated; this represented slight increase on the previous year.

485 cases were approved for grant-aid and 436 houses were improved with grant-aid, a substantial increase on the previous year.

#### . Houses in Multiple Occupation

The inspection of these premises continued on a limited scale but it was not possible, due to staff changes and shortages, to give sufficient attention to this important aspect of the work; a total of 170 visits was made.

#### . Improvement Areas.

The Steelhouse Lane General Improvement Area continued to exercise the attention of your officers but response in the private sector has continued to be disappointing. Despite a large number of initial enquiries about improvement, very small numbers of houses have been improved. Work on the environmental improvements continued and the improvement of some 25 remaining council houses has commenced.

The work of improvement of council owned properties in the Pinfold Lane and W Hill General Improvement Areas continued.

#### Qualification Certificates.

Despite the passing of the Housing Finance Act 1972, with its programme for the conversion of controlled tenancies to regulated tenancies, a number of applications for qualification certificates continue to be made.

Summary of the work undertaken is set out below:-

Applications received .....	16
Applications withdrawn or cancelled.....	9
Applications refused.....	12
Applications granted .....	34
Applications still under consideration .....	484
Letters sent requesting repairs	42



The majority of the applications still under consideration are those cases where owners have been asked to carry out repairs and applications are in suspense pending completion of the work.

#### 6. Housing Conditions.

Following Department of the Environment Circular 50/72 a sample survey of the housing conditions in the Borough was undertaken by a team of experienced public health inspectors and their findings were included in a report.

Subsequently your officers have met on a number of occasions in connection with this survey, the housing implications of the structure plan and the White Paper "Better Houses - the Next Priorities". Legislation amending the present Housing Acts is before Parliament.

#### 7. Informal Enquiries and Land Charge Searches.

Two hundred and twenty-one written enquiries were dealt with giving information regarding the Council's slum clearance programme.

Formal enquiries received under the Land Charges Act totalled 5,685.

#### 8. Caravans

The following caravan site licences were in force at the end of the year:-

Number of Caravans	Duration of Licence	Persons Accommodated
21	9 years	Not yet known
1	5 years	Two adults
1	2 years	Two adults
1	1 year	Two adults
1	1 year	One adult





INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. Meat Inspection

The total throughput at the Public Abattoir was as follows:-

Cattle (other than cows)	7,258
Cows	117
Calves	31
Sheep	39,559
Pigs	<u>41,003</u>
TOTAL	<u>87,968</u>

The combined throughput at the two private slaughterhouses was as follows:-

Cattle	427
Sheep	1,339
Pigs	<u>19,598</u>
TOTAL	<u>21,364</u>

Meat and Offal condemned. The total weight of meat and offal condemned at the Abattoir and private slaughterhouses was as follows:-

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Meat	8	1	3	24
Offal	21	6	0	0
TOTAL	<u>29</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>24</u>

2. Slaughter of Animals Act 1958

Fifty-three licences, authorising persons to act as slaughtermen in accordance with the provisions of the Act, were in force; these comprised 46 renewals and 7 new licences.

3. Food and Drugs Act 1955  
Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970

The following table gives the numbers of food premises subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970, grouped in categories of trade carried on in them:-

Licensed	598
Grocery	396
Catering	303
Butchers	241
Fruit and Greengrocery	181
Confectionery	176
Fish Frying	98
Schools:	
Kitchens	80
Serveries only	41
Hotels and Boarding Houses	41
Wet Fish	38
Food Manufacturing	26
Food Storing	20
Baking	8
Food Packing	4
General	<u>50</u>
TOTAL	<u>2,301</u>





4. Inspection of Food Premises

Two thousand, seven hundred and three visits were paid to food premises for the purpose of inspection. Forty-four informal notices were served and 29 were complied with.

Two hundred and forty-four visits were made to shops and warehouses following requests from the occupiers for the examination of tinned and other foods alleged to be unfit for human consumption.

The undermentioned unsound food was voluntarily surrendered and destroyed:-

	Tons	owts.	qrs.	lbs.
Meat at retail shops .....	-	14	-	-
Cooked meat and meat products ...	-	1	1	10
Canned meats .....	-	9	2	19
Other canned foods .....	1	4	3	24
Fish (fresh) .....	-	-	3	-
Fruit and vegetables (fresh) ....	22	18	-	2
Frozen foods due to cabinet breakdown .....	5	13	-	13
Other foods .....	-	13	3	16
TOTAL .....	31	15	3	0

Disposal of condemned food. Carcase meat and offal were processed; tinned and other foods were disposed of by incineration.

5. Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970

Legal Proceedings

	Number	
	Prosecutions	Convictions
1. Part II		
General requirements	1	1
2. Part III		
Requirements relating to food handlers and the handling of food	-	-
3. Part IV		
Requirements relating to food premises	16	16
TOTALS	17	17

Total Fines and Costs - £555

6. Licensing Act 1964

Three hundred and fifty-eight full on-licences, 23 restaurant licences, 2 residential licences, 2 restaurant and residential licences, 2 beerhouses, 189 off-licences, 22 licensed clubs and 116 registered clubs were in existence on 31 December. These numbers included 2 new full on-licences, 16 new off-licences and 2 new restaurant licences.

One hundred and fifteen inspections and 279 other visits were made to on and off licensed premises and 48 inspections and 41 reinspections were made of registered clubs.

The discovery of exceptionally poor conditions at a licensed club resulted in the instigation of legal proceedings and subsequent fines



totalling £350. In general, however, an improvement in hygiene in licensed premises has continued with the complete co-operation of the proprietors concerned.

### Efficiency Tests

Of 95 swabs taken for bacterial examination from drinking glasses and other utensils, 55 were reported unsatisfactory. The premises from which the unsatisfactory swabs had been obtained were inspected and recommendations were made which would improve the efficiency of the washing-up process and also protect the clean utensils from contamination before further use.

### 7. Milk Supply and Ice Cream

A general supervision was maintained both of dairies and of premises used for the manufacture of ice cream.

One hundred and fifteen samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination and all were reported satisfactory.

Of the 45 samples of ice cream taken for bacteriological examination 36 were placed in Grade I and 9 in Grade II of the Ministry's Provisional Grades. None of the samples was reported unsatisfactory.

Routine visits were paid to milkshops and to premises where ice cream was sold.

### 8. Sampling

Fifty-two samples of various types of foods were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination and all were found to be of satisfactory bacteriological standard.

Four hundred and eighty-three samples of foods and drugs, consisting of 475 informal and 8 formal, were taken for analysis by the Public Analyst.

Four hundred and seventy-four samples were satisfactory and of the nine unsatisfactory samples reported, 5 were due to minor labelling offences which were corrected after correspondence with the persons concerned.

Two of the unsatisfactory samples related to the presence of extraneous water in cartoned milk distributed from a dairy outside the Borough. With the co-operation of the Public Health Department concerned the dairy was inspected and no reason could be found for the presence of the water. It was decided that the unsatisfactory samples were the result of an isolated case of error in production and subsequent samples proved satisfactory.

A sample of cream cheese was found to have a fat content well below the standard required by legislation. An investigation showed that the cheese had been labelled "cream cheese" in error and was thereafter correctly labelled "full fat soft cheese".

A sample of Brandy Butter was found to have a brandy content below that which would justify the description of the product. The manufacturers, after being informed of the Analyst's report, took steps to ensure that the amount of brandy present in the product at the point of sale would be not less than the accepted minimum.

### 9. Food and Drugs Act 1955 - Food Complaints

One hundred and forty-seven complaints were received; in 120 instances no formal action was necessary. Eight complaints were still being investigated at the end of the year.

Warning letters were sent in 15 instances and legal proceedings were instituted in the following 4 cases:-





Article of Food	:	Nature of Complaint	:	Result of Legal Proceedings
Cornish pasty	:	Contaminated by mice droppings	:	Retailers fined £20-00 plus £6-25 costs
Chicken	:	Unsound portion of cooked chicken	:	Firm of retailers fined £50-00 plus £7-00 costs
Steak and kidney pie	:	Presence of maggots in pie	:	Firm of manufacturer/retailers fined £30-00 plus £6-00 costs
Milk	:	Insect pupae on inside of bottle of sterilised milk	:	Dairy company fined £40-00 and ordered to pay Public Analyst's fee of £6-55

The last mentioned case was taken under the provisions of the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959 (Regulation 27).

### 10. Sales out of Market Licences

Eleven applications for initial licences were referred by the General Manager, Markets Department, to this department for action as necessary under the provisions of the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966 prior to the issue of the licences. Seven of the applications had been approved and the licences issued by the end of the year. In addition there were 51 renewals, making a total of 58 licensed mobile food shops in operation.





## APPENDIX

### THE FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR WOLVERHAMPTON

The first Medical Officer of Health was appointed in 1871 for three months, but seems to have been replaced after that time by Dr. John Henry Love, who presented the first Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in 1872. Dr. Love began this period of office with a visitation of smallpox in August 1872 and after this had settled, there was an outbreak of typhoid fever in August 1873. Public concern was such that a "memorial" was presented to the Sanitary Committee Chairman at the October Council Meeting in 1873. To quote the Chairman of the Sanitary Committee, James Langman: The memorialists first say "that much anxiety exists among the inhabitants of the town as to its sanitary condition," and then, "that there is a very general concurrence of opinion that the cause of the late outbreak of typhoid fever should be investigated under official authority". Of course this means that the Local Government Board should be petitioned to send down an inspector. There is in this, an implied censure of either the Council, or their Committee, to whom is entrusted the sanitary affairs of the Borough, and an insinuation that either they are not alive to the defective sanitary condition of the town, or if they are, they fail to apply adequate remedies.....Still your Committee are painfully alive to the fact that much remains to be done and to the difficulties in the way of doing it. Partly from the defective state of sanitary law but above all from the indifference or ignorance of the public, their ability to do what is necessary is very restricted; and your Committee would here remind the Council that it is only within the last year or two that they have, through the appointment of an Officer of Health, been placed in a position to adequately administer the law, inefficient as it is, and they would further remind the Council that it is through no fault of theirs that this appointment was not made sooner, as an application to the Council for the appointment of such an Officer some time since was not granted.

Apparently, following the "memorial" Dr. Edward Ballard of the Local Government Board visited Wolverhampton and submitted a lengthy report concerning the housing conditions in the Borough: "I have not before inspected a town in which the dwellings of the poor and labouring classes were so generally unwholesome from the causes I have just mentioned. In the older parts of the town there are houses so dilapidated from age as to appear upon the point of falling to pieces, yet these houses are occupied and rent is paid for them..... Altogether it must be said that the poor and labouring population of Wolverhampton is generally lodged very unwholesomely and that the conditions which render their dwellings thus unwholesome are such as might be remedied were the Sanitary Authority to take such steps as it ought to take with this object....."

Photostat copies of the Annual Report for 1871-72 and the Report of the Sanitary Committee which preceded it are attached because of their general interest.



# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, FOR THE YEAR 1871 AND 1872.

In a *recent report* presented by me to the *Sanitary Committee* on August 27th, 1872, and submitted to the *Town Council*-September 9th, 1872, I pointed out the general condition of the Borough of Wolverhampton.

The continuous prevalence of rain during the last twelve months has undoubtedly been the cause, in a great measure, of the spread of malarious diseases, and notwithstanding the high situation of the town of Wolverhampton, it has not passed unscathed. I regret to state that the death-rate of the Borough throughout the year has been about 31 per 1,000 (as the tabulated statement annexed to this Report will shew). This large per centage is due, however, to the unfortunate visitation of Small-pox—(*Vide August Report, 1872*). I am thankful to say that at present there is no prevailing epidemic.

The total number of Births were 2,674; Deaths, 2,152; shewing an increase of the population to the number of 522. The "*Infant Life Protection Act*," will, in my opinion, lessen the number of deaths amongst children under one year of age.

A *Public Park* situated so near the centre of the town as the present race-course, would, without doubt, be a great boon to many of the inhabitants, and act as a vast lung to this *centre of manufacture*, inducing health and invigorating the rising generation. There, is I am glad to report more attention being paid to the *ventilation* of all new houses.

The *Water* supplied to the Borough, by the Corporation Waterworks, has been more than usually impregnated with vegetable substances (in consequence of the amount of rain), which impurities the inhabitants can easily remove by the use of small charcoal filters, in their own homes, and thus provide themselves with the best water in the kingdom.

The *Town of Wolverhampton* still continues to improve in its *Sanitary condition*. Many structural alterations and improvements have already taken place in the ashpits of the Borough, which will tend to prevent any future accumulations of foul matter, so deleterious to health.

The number of notices served from October 1st, 1871, to October 1st 1872, to abate nuisances is as follows, viz:—

For the improvement of Privies, &c.	...	...	311
For the removal of Swine	...	...	89
For the removal of Accumulations, &c.	...	...	121
For the removal of Offensive trades	...	...	3
For the improvement of Drains	...	...	84
To supply Pure Water	...	...	18
To re-pave Yards and Courts	...	...	12
Total			<u>638</u>
Number of notices complied with	...	...	608
Number of notices not complied with	...	...	30*
Number of houses and shopping condemned as unfit for use in consequence of being over privies and ashpits			11

*Public Urinals.* All these places have been *lime-washed*.







# REPORT OF THE SANITARY COMMITTEE.

NOVEMBER, 1872.

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**PUBLIC HEALTH.**—Annexed to this Report, your Committee submit a Report from your Medical Officer, which deals fully with the question of the Public Health, and also with many matters of Sanitary improvement which have engaged their attention during the past year. They also append a tabulated statement shewing particulars of Births and Deaths within the Borough during the same period. Your Committee are indebted to your Medical Officer, for the energy he has displayed in the performance of his duties.

**SMALL-POX EPIDEMIC.**—In the last annual Report of your Committee, reference was made to the outbreak of small-pox within the Borough, and the steps taken to prevent the spread of the disease. From that date up to June last the disease existed to an alarming extent, and as reported by your Committee in August last, according to the Medical Officer's returns, no less than 6,000 persons were attacked by it, of whom 407 died. Your Committee have from time to time, during the prevalence of the Epidemic, brought before the Council, in the shape of printed and written reports, particulars as to its progress and their acts in connection therewith, and feel it therefore only necessary to briefly refer to the many steps they took in order to prevent the spread of, and to stamp out the Epidemic. In the first place, it will be in the recollection of the Council, that upon the resignation of Mr. V. Jackson, as Medical Officer of Health, Mr. F. E. Manby was appointed to the office, which he held from the 6th November, 1871, to the 11th March, 1872, and was succeeded by Mr. J. H. Love, who was appointed to the 1st November, 1872, and whom your Committee recommended should continue in the office until the 31st December next, by which time it is hoped definite information under the "Public Health Act 1872," as to such appointment and other matters, will be received from the Local Government Board. The medical men in the Borough, and the District Registrar's were earnestly requested to advise the Medical Officer of cases of, and deaths from Small-pox, immediately they became aware of them; and during the rage of the Epidemic, a temporary mortuary was erected in the cemetery, to which the bodies of persons who had died from the disease were immediately removed. Vaccination and Re-vaccination were pressed upon the inhabitants by circular, placard, and gratuitous operations, your Committee bearing the expense. The Sanitary staff was increased by the appointment of an additional Inspector of Nuisances, and the employment of six labourers (since reduced to four) to act as Sub-Inspectors, under the direction of the Inspectors' and Medical Officer of Health. The town was divided into Districts, and systematically inspected and cleansed, and on the 25th May last your Committee had the pleasing satisfaction of being able to close their temporary hospital. The question of pure water has had the serious attention of your Committee. Analysis of waters reported bad have been frequently made and proper supplies ordered. The question of improvement in the structural arrangement of the ashpits and privies within the Borough has engaged a considerable amount of your Committee's attention, and they are pleased to report that a great many defects have been remedied, and improvements are rapidly proceeding.

**NIGHT SOIL AND TEAM DEPARTMENT.**—The Sub-Committee appointed by your Committee to superintend this Department, report that during the past year there were received 10,949 notices to remove ashes, &c., 29,721 loads being removed, and 17,431 ashpits and closets emptied. The very exceptional wet season we have had since our last annual report materially increased the labour and expense, and also affected the disposal of the Night Soil, as the farmers were unable to get it upon the land. The most serious, however, of the exceptional difficulties we have had to contend with, has been the epidemic of Small Pox, which has been brought prominently before the Council so many times that we only consider it necessary to refer to it, and to remark that as nearly as can be estimated, the cost of the epidemic to this department alone has been about £600.



The *Night Soil Department*, which consists now of one Manager, one Inspector, and 43 Men, can cope with the heavy demands made upon them, having no arrears and being under continual supervision. The number of ashpits emptied and loads removed is as follows, viz. :—

1871.		Ashpits.	Loads.	
October ...	...	1,345	...	2,100
November ...	...	1,776	...	2,622
December ...	...	1,480	...	2,416
1872.				
January ...	...	1,484	...	2,512
February ...	...	1,381	..	2,512
March ...	...	1,347	...	2,441
April ...	...	1,282	...	2,422
May ...	...	1,364	...	3,588
June ...	...	1,412	...	2,582
July ...	...	1,702	...	2,955
August ..	...	1,355	...	2,317
September ...	...	1,206	...	2,027
		<u>17,134*</u>		<u>29,724</u>

*Diseased Meat* (*Vide report August, 1872.*) The following is the number of animals and meat condemned from October 1st, 1871, to October 1st, 1872—26 Pigs, 1 Sheep, 2 Calves, 2 Cows and 2 quarters of Beef, making a total of 31 animals.

*Slaughter Houses.* I have, in conjunction with the Inspectors, visited the slaughter houses, which are tolerably well kept, but many are so badly constructed and improperly situated as to render it desirable that the *Town Council*, should, at an early day take into their consideration, the question of establishing “*Public Slaughterhouses*” within the Borough.

I am glad to find that steps are being taken to enforce the “*Adulteration of Food Prevention Act*” as nothing tends to promote general health more than purity of Food, Water, and Air.

I have to report that during the short space of time I have been engaged in enforcing the “*Smoke Nuisance Removal Act*” several nuisances have been abated.

The “*Steam Whistle*” although useful to the manufacturers and their employès, are without doubt very distressing to the nervous system, and to *Invalids* generally.

I am pleased to be enabled to report, that the *Inspectors of Nuisances* have been, and still are most assiduous in carrying out the instructions for all *sanitary* measures.

*In conclusion*, I cannot but regret that in this *my first annual report*, the annual death rate should be so high, this however, as has been already stated, arose from the visitation of Small-Pox, which has been happily removed from our midst. For this we have great cause for thankfulness, as also for the the absence in the Borough of Epidemic Disease, more especially when we consider the unusual amount of wet weather which has prevailed during the past year. I have every reason to hope that I shall under *God's blessing*, with the valuable support I have hitherto and I trust may continue to receive at the hands of the *Sanitary Committee*, be successful in rendering this Borough, one of the healthiest in England.

JOHN HENRY LOVE,  
Medical Officer of Health.

\* Many of these are now in hand.







